

EATON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

June 13, 2023

A regular meeting of the Eaton County Board of Road Commissioners was held in the Board Room at the Road Commission offices in Charlotte, Michigan on June 13, 2023.

Members present: Commissioners Barber, Lyons, Lamoreaux and Aitch-Guerrant (arrival 8:45).

Members absent: Commissioner Eldred

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Barber at 8:32 p.m.

The Vice Chairman inquired if there were additions or deletions to the agenda. Additions: None. Deletions: None. Moved by Lyons and seconded by Lamoreaux to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

The Vice Chairman asked if the minutes of the May 23, 2023, meeting were correct as presented. Moved by Lyons and seconded by Lamoreaux to approve the May 23, 2023, minutes. Motion carried.

Public comment: None

The following vouchers were presented:

a.	VO 45 (05/23/23)	Payroll	\$ 100,485.96
b.	VO 46 (06/05/23)	Accounts Payable	\$ 618,818.33
c.	VO 47 (06/06/23)	Payroll	\$ 109,775.71
d.	VO 48 (06/08/23)	Accounts Payable	\$ 870,205.02

There was a discussion. Motion by Lyons and seconded by Lamoreaux to approve vouchers 45 - 48 with total expenditures of \$1,699,285.02. Roll call vote: Ayes: Lyons, Lamoreaux, and Barber. Nays: None. Absent: Aitch and Eldred. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to table the FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment #1 until the June 27, 2023 meeting. Moved by Lyons and seconded by Lamoreaux to table the FY 2022-2023 Budget Amendment #1 until the June 27, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to approve and sign the 2023 Crush & Shape Traffic Control Contract with Best Barricading, Inc. There was some discussion. Moved by Lamoreaux and seconded by Lyons to approve and sign the 2023 Crush & Shape Traffic Control Contract with Best Barricading, Inc. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to consider, approve, and sign the Kalamo Township Sealcoat Agreement. There was some discussion. Motion by Lyons and seconded by Barber to approve and sign the Kalamo Township Sealcoat Agreement. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to consider a wage increase for the Accounting Technician. There was some discussion. The previous Engineer/Manager had agreed to a step increase for the additional responsibilities added during the transition of Finance Managers. This is to honor that agreement. Moved by Lyons and seconded by Lamoreaux to approve the wage increase for the Accounting Technician. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to consider the flowable fill variance for the Delta Township Utility permits. There was some discussion. Is the flowable fill an actual policy or a best practice? Motion by Lamoreaux and seconded by Lyons to approve the flowable fill variance for the Delta Township Utility permits. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to consider attendance of the 39th MCRC SIP Workshop and Membership Meeting. There was some discussion. Motion by Lyons and seconded by Aitch to approve the attendance of the 39th MCRC SIP Workshop and Membership Meeting. Motion carried.

The Engineer/Manager requested the Board to consider the MCRC SIP 2023 Board of Directors Election Ballots. There was some discussion. No motion necessary

The Engineer/Manager provided an update on the Security Audit and System. Matt is communicating with Siemens to get training completed and ensure all devices have the appropriate software.

The Superintendent provided an update on the following items:

- Regravel is in process. Crandell is working, roughly 25 miles done and Carr Bros will begin.
- Sealcoat approximately 50 miles done and about 45 more to go
- Ionia Road, 2-mile natural stone, 2-mile of lag stone used, and 2-mile of trap rock from – will fog on Thursday
- Cold patching
- Hot Mastic
- Regravel prep in Hamlin area - Brush clearing and de berm, no complaints
- Discing and ditching, roads should be 20 feet width – helps to make roads better, some are narrow. There will be conversations with townships to get them on board with improvement of gravel roads.
- Walton Twp, Baker Rd, residents are vocal about cutting trees and working on road
- Roadside Mowing is ongoing, more trimming is needed especially on the gravel roads
- Brine well is down in Vermontville, broken rod – main rod that pumps material out of the ground snapped off

The Assistant Engineer provided an update on the following items:

- Battle Creek Hwy (federal aid project), there is a punch list to be done – open to traffic in the next couple of weeks
- Five Point Hwy (federal aid project), detour signs are up, called Miss Dig two weeks ago no flags yet, hope to start in a couple of weeks
- Between Ward and Mathews at Creepy swamp, in process of applying for an environmental permit and will have a site meeting to see how much mitigation is needed, need to do an RFP for a Geotech Engineer to assist in identifying what needs to be done.
- Smithville Road Bridge over Grand River working on a RFP for preventative maintenance, will be done in 2024
- Staffing update, sent out an offer letter for another intern, but phone is disconnected so not sure if it will be accepted

The Engineer/Manager provided an update on the following items:

- Delta Township Manager asked for a draft funding matrix as a guideline for funding splits on projects, Engineer-Manager distributed a draft copy for review to be considered at a future board meeting for approval
- Met with OPEB actuary, we are about 200% funded, if no funds into it a 5.5% rate of return on the investment would keep it fully funded with no future contributions from the road commission, road commission is currently not contributing to the fund, insurance premiums are currently being paid from the MTF but Engineer-Manager will investigate paying benefits from the OPEB account instead, there was conversation to move to a 401K Health Reimbursement Account instead

Correspondence:

- Dow Road, Centennial Acres, - complaint that road is bad, letter requesting this road be a priority
- Vermontville and Cochran Crash, Benton Township, – Benton Twp trustee passed along a concern from the fire chief about the number of crashes increasing at this intersection
- Commissioner Aitch brought up issue about intersection at Canal and M-43, bushes make it hard to see by Starbucks, road is busy – Matt will look at it, driveway existed previously, there was discussion

Other:

- July 18 Seven County Council Meeting (Montcalm CRC)
- July 19-20 39th Annual MCRSIP Meeting, Mt. Pleasant

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Public comment: None

Commissioner Comment: None

Moved by Lyons and seconded by Aitch to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

The date and time of the next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Duane A. Eldred, Chairman

Louanna L. Lawson, Clerk to the Board